

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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IN THIS ISSUE...

State Overview

<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	1
<i>County Labor Force Developments</i>	3
Panhandle	7
Seaport	9
<i>Senior Citizens in North Central Idaho</i>	9
Treasure Valley	11
Magic Valley	15
<i>2002 Agricultural Overview</i>	15
Southeast	17
<i>Census 2000—Area Labor Force</i>	
<i>Characteristics</i>	18
Northeast	19
F.Y.I.	
<i>Agricultural Worker Wages & Benefits</i>	
<i>Survey Results</i>	21
<i>NAICS Update</i>	26
<i>"Year-in-Review" Poem</i>	28
Glossary	29

2002 ECONOMIC CENSUS STARTS IN DECEMBER

The U.S. Census Bureau is sending questionnaires to more than 5 million businesses throughout the United States in December for the 2002 Economic Census. This census produces the most widely-used business statistics and is the foundation for most economic indicators. Data covering calendar year 2002 will be collected and processed during 2003, and the first data will be released beginning in early 2004. The Economic Census eventually will yield more than 1,600 data products with information on more than 1,000 industries and over 50,000 geographic areas.



Happy Holidays!

State Overview

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UNCHANGED AT 5.5 PERCENT

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2002 was 5.5 percent, unchanged from September. The October rate was four-tenths of a percentage point above the 5.1 percent rate experienced one year ago, and two-tenths of a percentage point below the national unemployment rate, which rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, in October. The October 2002 national rate was three-tenths of a percentage point above October 2001. The national unemployment rate has shown no clear trend since spring, and payroll employment appears to have leveled off in recent months following a period of modest growth from May through August.

The number of unemployed Idahoans increased slightly to 37,700 in October, up 200 from September. The number of employed persons also increased by 400 to 649,400. These changes resulted in a *Civilian Labor Force* of 687,100 in October, up 600 from September 2002.

The changes from October 2001 show that Idaho's labor force has decreased 2,500 persons, or 0.4 percent. From one year ago, the number of persons employed was down 4,900, or 0.7 percent, and the number of persons unemployed increased by 2,400, or 6.8 percent.

Area Labor Force Developments

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for eight labor market areas (LMAs) in Idaho—Seaport LMA, Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Magic Valley LMA. State Table 1 on page 3 lists the counties located in each labor market area, along with October labor market information.

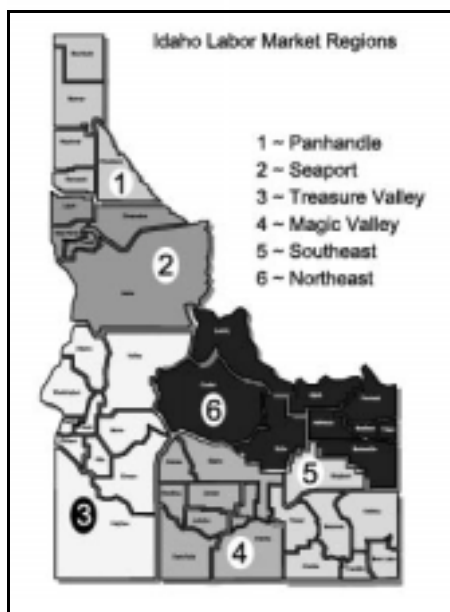
Ada and Canyon Counties form the Boise City MSA. In October, this MSA had 36 percent of the state's *Civilian Labor Force* and the same proportion of the state's *Total Employment*. Thirty-four percent of the state's *Unemployed* resided in that area. Since 1996, the MSA's annual average unemployment rate was 4.0 percent or lower. For 2002, the average unemployment rate is likely to be in the neighborhood of 4.5 percent. The rise in the area's unemployment rate is primarily due to the slowdown experienced by the area's electronics manufacturing industries.

The Idaho-Lewis LMA had the smallest percent of the state's *Civilian Labor Force* at 1.2 percent. The area's 658 unemployed persons comprised only 1.7 percent of the state's *Unemployed* but it resulted in an 8.3 percent unemployment rate, the highest rate among the state's

LMAs. The area's largest employers are in *Lumber and Wood Products*, *Local Government* (schools and hospitals), and *Federal Government* (U. S. Forest Service). The timber related industries have suffered mill closures and reduced production/sales values in recent years. This, in turn, depresses the entire local economy even though there are bright signs related to tourism, specialty wood products, and specialty machining, wheat production, and vigorous economic development efforts.

The Panhandle LMA also had a high unemployment rate in October at 8.2 percent. This area is comprised of the five northern-most counties of Idaho. Although this area has become more diversified economically, the natural resource industries of *Lumber & Wood Products* and *Mining* remain the bell-weather industries for most of the larger cities and towns. Coeur d'Alene, the major city in the area and Kootenai County seat, has experienced significant population growth and is well known for its attractions for tourists and business conferences. Yet its *Civilian Labor Force* numbers just over 20,000 persons. The other large towns in this area are the other county seats—St. Maries (Benewah), Sandpoint (Bonner), Bonners Ferry (Boundary), and Wallace (Shoshone)—with much smaller populations, and all are nearly an hour's drive from Coeur d'Alene. The vitality of the natural resources industries is the driver of local economic conditions in these counties.

The traditional dividing line between North and South Idaho is the Salmon River. It joins the Snake River in the northern portion of Hells Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border. The Snake River flows north until it turns west at the confluence of the Clearwater River near Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington. The two cities are the nexus of the Seaport LMA, which is comprised of Nez Perce County (Idaho) and Asotin County (Washington). The area is called "Seaport" because of its inland ports used primarily to ship wheat on tug-propelled barges through the Snake/Columbia River system to the Portland area. The Seaport LMA's unemployment rate has frequently been below the statewide rate. However, in recent years a slowdown in population growth, job losses in *Lumber & Wood Products* and other manufacturing industries, and completion of a variety of *Construction* projects have resulted in a gradual increase in the unemployment rate. The October unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, still below the statewide average but almost a full percentage point above the 4.3 percent recorded for October 2001.



There are two LMAs in South Central Idaho, each a combination of counties that straddle the Snake River. The Magic Valley LMA includes Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls Counties and the Cassia-

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or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

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Minidoka LMA includes the two counties of Cassia and Minidoka. Both of these areas rely heavily on agriculture and depend upon the Snake River system, with its enormous underground aquifer, for irrigation water. Twin Falls is the population center of South Central Idaho and has an increasingly diverse economy that has accompanied a robust population growth. This diversification usually means the Magic Valley LMA has a lower unemployment rate and is less seasonally volatile than the neighboring Cassia-Minidoka LMA. A comparison of the October unemployment rates of 3.8 percent for Magic Valley vs. 6.2 percent for Cassia-Minidoka is indicative of this difference.

The two LMAs in eastern Idaho are the Pocatello City MSA and the Bonneville LMA. The Pocatello City MSA is the only single-county (Bannock County) MSA or LMA in Idaho. It has enjoyed a decade of population growth and economic diversification that has helped to mitigate more recent job losses in *Chemicals & Allied Products* and *Railroads*. At 5.7 percent, the MSA's October unemployment rate was slightly above the statewide rate. Up the Snake River from Bannock County lies the four county Bonneville LMA. Idaho Falls, in Bonneville County, is the major city in the area. This LMA is known for two primary features: potatoes and atoms. This is not to downplay the importance of almost all the *Service-Producing Industries* in the area but its significant potato growing, processing, and support businesses, along with the nuclear-focused Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory, are key to the area's economic condition and stability. The LMA's unemployment rate usually has been below the state's in recent years and October was no exception with a 3.5 percent unemployment rate.

County Labor Force Developments

Four counties experienced double-digit unemployment rates in October: Adams at 14.0 percent was up 1.4 percentage points from September, Clearwater at 12.4 percent was down nine-tenths of a percentage point from September, Washington at 10.2 percent was up nine-tenths of a percentage point from September, and Gem at 10.1 percent was up eight-tenths of a percentage point from September.

Only one county—Madison—experienced an unemployment rate below 3.0 percent in October. At 1.7 percent, the county's unemployment rate was up four-tenths of a percentage point from September.

A comparison of October 2002 with October 2001 shows that 20 of Idaho's counties had a lower unemployment rate in October 2002 than October 2001; 22 of

State Table 1: October 2002 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,966	1,520	4.3	33,446
Nez Perce County	22,970	842	3.7	22,128
Asotin County, WA	11,996	678	5.7	11,318
Boise City MSA	249,177	12,923	5.2	236,254
Ada County	179,860	8,273	4.6	171,587
Canyon County	69,318	4,650	6.7	64,667
Pocatello City MSA*	40,326	2,319	5.8	38,006
Bonneville LMA	83,067	2,923	3.5	80,144
Bingham County	22,563	886	3.9	21,676
Bonneville County	48,228	1,615	3.3	46,613
Butte County	1,676	85	5.0	1,591
Jefferson County	10,601	337	3.2	10,264
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	19,157	1,186	6.2	17,970
Cassia County	9,557	590	6.2	8,966
Minidoka County	9,600	596	6.2	9,004
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,984	662	8.3	7,322
Idaho County	6,383	553	8.7	5,830
Lewis County	1,601	109	6.8	1,492
Panhandle LMA	92,865	7,581	8.2	85,283
Benewah County	4,521	449	9.9	4,072
Bonner County	17,837	1,223	6.9	16,614
Boundary County	4,623	347	7.5	4,276
Kootenai County	59,244	4,993	8.4	54,251
Shoshone County	6,640	569	8.6	6,071
Magic Valley LMA	49,328	1,896	3.8	47,432
Gooding County	6,864	232	3.4	6,631
Jerome County	9,247	360	3.9	8,887
Twin Falls County	33,217	1,303	3.9	31,914
Adams County	1,646	231	14.0	1,415
Bear Lake County	2,965	153	5.2	2,812
Blaine County	12,129	482	4.0	11,648
Boise County	2,935	175	6.0	2,760
Camas County	522	22	4.2	500
Caribou County	3,329	216	6.5	3,112
Clark County	508	23	4.4	485
Clearwater County	3,645	451	12.4	3,194
Custer County	1,958	153	7.8	1,806
Elmore County	9,752	757	7.8	8,995
Franklin County	5,355	201	3.8	5,154
Fremont County	5,115	247	4.8	4,869
Gem County	6,324	642	10.1	5,683
Latah County	15,013	538	3.6	14,476
Lemhi County	3,814	259	6.8	3,555
Lincoln County	1,955	72	3.7	1,883
Madison County	11,552	200	1.7	11,352
Oneida County	1,830	80	4.4	1,750
Owyhee County	4,466	191	4.3	4,275
Payette County	10,176	973	9.6	9,203
Power County	3,278	247	7.5	3,031
Teton County	3,841	120	3.1	3,721
Valley County	5,501	411	7.5	5,090
Washington County	4,614	474	10.3	4,139
State of Idaho	687,098	37,650	5.5	649,448
Idaho Cities				
Boise	114,074	5,256	4.6	108,818
Coeur d'Alene	20,873	1,380	6.6	19,493
Idaho Falls	29,895	1,071	3.6	28,824
Lewiston	19,694	639	3.2	19,055
Nampa	21,310	1,603	7.5	19,707
Pocatello	28,659	1,637	5.7	27,022
Twin Falls	17,433	745	4.3	16,688

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

Idaho's 44 counties had a higher rate this year; and two counties had the same rate—Latah and Nez Perce. The year-over-year differences were only a few tenths of a percentage point.

Industry Highlights

Total *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in Idaho declined by 1,200 between September and October 2002 for a marginal 0.2 percent reduction. In comparison to one year ago, the total number of jobs declined by 7,200 or 1.2 percent. If the year-over-year job loss were divided by 12 months, the average monthly job loss would be 600 or a decrease of 0.1 percent per month.

Goods-Producing Industries and *Service-Producing Industries* each lost 600 jobs from September to October 2002. *Construction* was down by 700 jobs as the summer season ended and many of the heavy construction projects were completed. *Special Trades Contractors* also reported fewer jobs. This continues the several-months trend of a construction slowdown, although it remains a healthy industry.

Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment ("computers") lost 300 jobs and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, except Computers* ("chips") lost 100 jobs. The electronics industry experienced some layoffs and effects of impending plant closures during October. The chip industry's job loss was minimal but the industry is still facing volatility in chip prices and foreign competitors' trade practices.

The effects of the closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Heyburn started to show up in the October job count in *Food Processing*. In addition, the harvest of potatoes and sugar beets was beginning to gear up for the peak processing time. Some processing plants were still involved in pre-fall clean-up and maintenance work in early October.

Job gains in *State and Local Government, Education* were not enough to counteract job losses in *State and Local Government, Administration* and the state's tourism industry from September to October 2002. These changes are generally expected in the fall months but the tourism-related job declines can be attributed partially to travelers exercising post-September 11 caution. *Eating & Drinking Places* lost 1,100 jobs; *Hotels & Other Lodging Places* was down 600 jobs; and *Amusement and Recreation Services* declined by 1,000 in October from September 2002. Many of the *State & Local Government, Administration* jobs lost were seasonal. As the state parks closed for the winter, local parks no longer needed additional maintenance, and summer recreation programs ended. These activities resulted in a loss of 1,900 jobs statewide.

Goods-Producing Industries, which lost 6,700 jobs, felt the brunt of the year-over-year job decline. The industries with the largest declines are the same ones that have shown year-over-year losses consistently throughout 2002: *Construction* (-3,000); *Lumber & Wood Products* (-900); *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (-500); and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, except Computers* (-600). The national recession, product prices, and the lack of business and consumer confidence are the primary reasons these industries have lost jobs.

Tourism-related industries and *Business Services* account for most of the year-over-year job loss in *Service-Producing Industries*. Temporary help agencies, a component of *Business Services*, place employees throughout the industrial spectrum and were adversely affected by the national recessionary trends, as were their customers. *Health Services*, on the other hand, had a positive 6.0 percent job growth rate from October 2001 to October 2002.

Agricultural Employment

October is the traditional peak month of the harvest season. The demand for irrigators decreases, but there is an increased need for truck drivers and other harvest workers. The potato harvest is nearly completed but the sugar beet harvest is just beginning during October. There is also some fall field preparation work taking place. The need for ranch hands and dairy workers continues and pre-harvest of Christmas trees, primarily in the Panhandle area, requires hired workers.

Potato and sugar beet growers needed truck drivers, product graders and sorters, and packers and shippers this fall. In the case of potato growers, these activities lead to an interesting data quirk. Many growers have "fresh pack" operations (grading, storing, packing, and shipping unprocessed potatoes to food distributors) physically located on the farming facility. These operations and their workforce usually are classified as *Agricultural*. If the facility is not located on the farm and/or it is operated as a separate business enterprise, the workforce is classified as *Wholesale Trade, Nondurable Goods*.

Harvest activities were the reason for the 4.7 percent increase in employment from September to October 2002. All of the increase was in the hired workers category.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	570,100	571,300	577,300	-0.2	-1.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	109,500	110,100	116,200	-0.5	-5.8
Mining	1,800	1,800	2,000	0.0	-10.0
Metal Mining	500	500	700	0.0	-28.6
Construction	35,600	36,300	39,600	-1.9	-10.1
Manufacturing	72,100	72,000	74,600	0.1	-3.4
Durable Goods	43,200	43,700	45,400	-1.1	-4.8
Lumber & Wood Products	11,000	11,100	11,900	-0.9	-7.6
Logging	2,100	2,100	2,600	0.0	-19.2
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,200	4,100	4,300	2.4	-2.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,600	3,800	3,800	-5.3	-5.3
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	2,800	2,800	3,000	0.0	-6.7
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,100	9,400	9,600	-3.2	-5.2
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	13,000	13,100	13,600	-0.8	-4.4
Transportation Equipment	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	3,500	3,500	3,600	0.0	-2.8
Nondurable Goods	28,900	28,300	29,200	2.1	-1.0
Food Processing	17,900	17,400	17,800	2.9	0.6
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,600	9,800	9,600	-2.0	0.0
Paper Products	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,000	4,900	5,000	2.0	0.0
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,400	0.0	-16.7
Other Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,800	0.0	5.6
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	460,600	461,200	461,100	-0.1	-0.1
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,600	27,500	28,300	0.4	-2.5
Transportation	17,000	16,900	17,900	0.6	-5.0
Railroad	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	9,900	9,900	10,300	0.0	-3.9
Communications	6,500	6,500	6,400	0.0	1.6
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,100	4,100	4,000	0.0	2.5
Trade	140,700	141,800	140,900	-0.8	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	31,300	31,500	31,700	-0.6	-1.3
Durable Goods	14,700	14,700	14,800	0.0	-0.7
Nondurable Goods	16,600	16,800	16,900	-1.2	-1.8
Retail Trade	109,400	110,300	109,200	-0.8	0.2
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	7,000	7,100	6,600	-1.4	6.1
General Merchandise Stores	14,200	14,200	13,800	0.0	2.9
Food Stores	18,400	18,500	18,800	-0.5	-2.1
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,400	12,400	12,500	0.0	-0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	38,200	39,300	37,700	-2.8	1.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	24,700	24,700	24,500	0.0	0.8
Banking	7,400	7,400	7,400	0.0	0.0
Services	153,600	155,400	152,400	-1.2	0.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,200	7,800	8,000	-7.7	-10.0
Personal Services	4,500	4,500	4,300	0.0	4.7
Business Services	29,900	30,000	31,200	-0.3	-4.2
Amusement and Recreation Services	6,500	7,600	6,300	-14.5	3.2
Health Services	40,900	40,800	38,600	0.2	6.0
Hospitals	14,200	14,200	13,300	0.0	6.8
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	19,700	19,700	19,000	0.0	3.7
Government	114,000	111,800	115,000	2.0	-0.9
Federal Government	13,500	14,100	13,500	-4.3	0.0
State & Local Government	100,500	97,700	101,500	2.9	-1.0
State Government	29,300	28,500	30,700	2.8	-4.6
Education	14,500	13,200	15,100	9.8	-4.0
Administration	14,800	15,300	15,600	-3.3	-5.1
Local Government	71,200	69,200	70,800	2.9	0.6
Education	40,600	37,200	40,200	9.1	1.0
Administration	30,600	32,000	30,600	-4.4	0.0

* Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

	Oct 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From					
				Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾									
Seasonally Adjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	687,100	686,500	689,600	0.1	-0.4				
Unemployment	37,700	37,500	35,300	0.5	6.8				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	5.5	5.1						
Total Employment	649,400	649,000	654,300	0.1	-0.7				
Unadjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	688,100	690,400	690,200	-0.3	-0.3				
Unemployment	31,700	31,400	29,400	1.0	7.8				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.5	4.3						
Total Employment	656,400	659,000	660,800	-0.4	-0.7				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.7	5.6	5.4						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	177.3	177.0	174	0.2	1.9				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	181.3	181.0	177.7	0.2	2.0				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	42,850	40,940	42,130	4.7	1.7				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	740	680	670	8.8	10.4				
Hired Workers	33,100	31,250	32,450	5.9	2.0				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
Claims Activities									
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	10,866	7,805	12,035	39.2	-9.7				
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	59,800	69,238	61,409	-13.6	-2.6				
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾									
Weeks Compensated	55,367	48,445	48,428	14.3	14.3				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$12,140,855	\$10,528,463	\$10,535,855	15.3	15.2				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$219.28	\$217.33	\$217.56	0.9	0.8				
Covered Employers	40,507	40,406	40,343	0.2	0.4				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$211,171,466	\$209,566,466	\$138,929,922	0.8	52.0				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	Oct 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2002	Oct 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2002
Mining	\$706.43	\$751.61	\$757.95	41.9	42.9	47.7	\$16.86	\$17.52	\$15.89
Construction	\$666.59	\$692.03	\$651.48	38.2	40.9	39.7	\$17.45	\$16.92	\$16.41
Total Manufacturing	\$623.31	\$625.78	\$587.79	39.5	38.7	37.8	\$15.78	\$16.17	\$15.55
Lumber & Wood Products	\$627.66	\$642.74	\$549.67	39.7	40.5	37.7	\$15.81	\$15.87	\$14.58
Food & Kindred Products	\$450.82	\$446.31	\$446.91	39.1	37.1	39.1	\$11.53	\$12.03	\$11.43
Communications	\$754.39	\$862.30	\$759.29	40.8	41.9	40.8	\$18.49	\$20.58	\$18.61
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$738.59	\$730.48	\$804.81	36.6	36.8	38.6	\$20.18	\$19.85	\$20.85
Trade	\$316.38	\$323.01	\$324.21	28.4	29.1	29.5	\$11.14	\$11.10	\$10.99
Wholesale Trade	\$501.31	\$511.06	\$502.24	33.6	33.6	35.9	\$14.92	\$15.21	\$13.99
Retail Trade	\$269.10	\$274.82	\$276.33	27.1	27.9	27.8	\$9.93	\$9.85	\$9.94
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.									



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down from 8.6 percent in September to 8.2 percent in October 2002. From August to September, the unemployment rate had risen sharply from 8.3 percent to 8.6 percent because many businesses laid off workers earlier than they normally do. Exceptionally warm weather in October helped keep most of the remaining workers on the job. Unemployment also declined between September and October when many people temporarily quit looking for work, therefore dropping out of the labor market, knowing that economic stagnation and normal seasonal job declines will limit job opportunities until spring. Despite the one-month unemployment decrease, the unemployment rate in October was four-tenths of a percentage point higher than the 7.8 percent one year earlier. The unemployment rate rose, despite a 2.0 percent increase in employment, because the labor force grew faster than employment, by 2.4 percent

Between October 2001 and October 2002, the Panhandle added 1,090 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. (See details in Panhandle Table 1.) Even though all the *Goods-Producing* sectors lost jobs, several *Service-Producing* sectors added enough jobs to offset those losses. *Retail Trade* added 530 jobs, mostly as a result of the January opening of Wal-Mart in Post Falls. *Services* added 930 jobs, mostly because of the expansions of the Center Partners call center in Kootenai County and the TSI call center in Shoshone County.

May Christmas be merry—and white! If it's not white, it won't be a happy Christmas for skiers, snowboarders, and snowmobilers and all the businesses that serve them. Not enough snow fell in November to let the ski areas open at Thanksgiving as they normally do. The two weeks around Christmas and New Year typically bring in 30 to 40 percent of the ski areas' annual revenues. In a good ski season, the Panhandle's three ski areas—Schweitzer Mountain near Sandpoint, Silver Moun-

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2001	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,860	93,550	90,690	-0.7	2.4
Unemployed	7,580	8,010	7,110	-5.4	6.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.2	8.6	7.8		
Total Employment	85,280	85,540	83,580	-0.3	2.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,890	93,240	86,340	-1.4	6.4
Unemployed	6,160	5,970	5,680	3.2	8.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	6.4	6.6		
Total Employment	85,730	87,270	80,660	-1.8	6.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	70,430	70,880	69,340	-0.6	1.6
Goods-Producing Industries	14,070	13,990	14,520	0.6	-3.1
Mining	540	540	700	0.0	-22.9
Construction	4,890	4,840	5,060	1.0	-3.4
Manufacturing	8,640	8,610	8,760	0.3	-1.4
Lumber & Wood Products	4,180	4,180	4,210	0.0	-0.7
All Other Manufacturing	4,460	4,430	4,550	0.7	-2.0
Service-Producing Industries	56,360	56,890	54,820	-0.9	2.8
Transportation	1,490	1,530	1,550	-2.6	-3.9
Communication & Utilities	1,070	1,070	1,060	0.0	0.9
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,160	0.0	-2.8
Retail Trade	15,420	15,630	14,890	-1.3	3.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,840	2,840	2,710	0.0	4.8
Service & Miscellaneous	18,700	19,300	17,770	-3.1	5.2
Government Administration	8,990	9,170	8,960	-2.0	0.3
Government Education	5,750	5,250	5,720	9.5	0.5

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tain in Kellogg, and Lookout Pass east of Mullan—provide more than 700 seasonal jobs with a payroll of \$3 million. In turn, that payroll helps support retail businesses in Bonner and Shoshone Counties. In addition, the skiers and snowboarders boost employment and incomes for the hospitality and retail industries. Since white on the mountains means more green in local cash registers, many people are hoping for a white Christmas.

An oversupply of wood products, coupled with poor prices, has forced some Panhandle mills to reduce employment. A major problem is increased competition from Canadian and other foreign producers. Louisiana-Pacific (L-P) temporarily shut down both of its mills in Boundary County in mid-November. L-P expects the Moyie Springs mill, which employs 190 people, to resume production in mid-December and the Bonners Ferry mill, which employs 128 people, to resume production by January 1. In mid-November, Potlatch Corporation temporarily shuttered its Post Falls particleboard plant, which employed nearly 60 people, but the plant was expected to reopen by December 8. Two other Panhandle mills that normally shut down for machine maintenance during the week of Thanksgiving shut down for two weeks this year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Benewah County

- The Panhandle's largest above-ground mine, Emerald Creek Garnet near Fernwood, permanently laid off 16 of its 50 employees in November because of a drop in the demand for industrial garnets. Emerald Creek excavates garnets used for sandblasting, water filtration, emery boards, and non-skid surfaces.
- Newco Building Supply, the new owner of the shuttered Pacific Northwest Fiber plant in Plummer, hopes to have the plant back in production by the end of January. Some technical difficulties have postponed the start-up, originally expected to occur in October. When the plant reopens not only will it produce strawboard as it did before, but it also will make panels from bluegrass residue and other straw that can be used for rafters, joists, and headers in construction. The Newco plant will employ eight to ten people. Pacific Northwest Fiber, which opened in the spring of 1999 and closed in April 2002, employed about 30 people.
- A \$1.2 million project is in the works to build a new concrete-reinforced floodwall to prevent the St. Joe River from flooding industrial sites in St. Maries. The existing earthen floodwall, built in 1942, has deteriorated beyond repair. Floods in 1996 and 1997 drew attention to the importance of replacing the floodwall, which protects several businesses including the city's two largest employers. Those two employers, the Potlatch mill complex that employs 346 people and Buell Trucking that employs 200 people, are providing \$180,000 in-kind services for the floodwall project. The Idaho Department of Commerce recently awarded \$400,000 for the project, while the City of St. Maries is contributing \$55,000, and the Army Corps of Engineers is contributing \$786,000. Construction of the new 700-foot-long, 12-foot-high floodwall will begin in summer of 2003 and should be completed in two months.
- The Carney Products pole yard in St. Maries will close permanently in the first quarter of 2003, putting eight people out of work. Carney's owner hopes to sell the 14-acre site that fronts the St. Joe River. L.D. McFarland, a company that operates pole yards in Sandpoint and Kooskia, has purchased the company's inventory, rolling stock, and peeler. The Carney closure ends an era; for more than 70 years, there has been a pole yard in St. Maries.

Bonner County

- Coldwater Creek eliminated 25 salaried positions at the catalog company's headquarters in Sandpoint in November. A conservative sales environment and duplication caused Coldwater to eliminate the positions. After the reduction-in-force, Coldwater Creek employs approximately 340 people in the Sandpoint area and approximately 400 at its Coeur d'Alene call center.

Boundary County

- The River Valley Health Clinic opened December 1 next to Boundary Community Hospital in Bonners Ferry. The private, non-profit clinic provides medical care to the uninsured and underinsured. Approx-

mately 27 percent of Boundary County residents do not have health insurance. North Idaho's only other community help center is the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Benewah Medical & Wellness Center in Plummer.

- The temporary shutdowns of both Louisiana-Pacific mills, mentioned earlier in the Panhandle section, potentially could hamper retail spending in Boundary County over the Christmas season. The two mills pay 8 percent of the county's \$78.5 million payroll.
- Other timber job losses may affect the number of people looking for work in Boundary County. Stimson Lumber plans to close the 70-year-old plywood plant in Libby, Montana, in mid-December, putting 300 workers out of work. The Stimson mill is Lincoln County's largest private employer, providing 5.9 percent of the county's jobs. Lincoln County's long-term high unemployment, as evidenced by its 11.3 percent unemployment rate in 2001, already has caused many Lincoln County residents to seek jobs in Boundary County. Currently, 55 Lincoln County job applicants are registered with Bonners Ferry Job Service. After the 300 Stimson employees are added to the 575 people already unemployed in October, even more Lincoln County residents will likely be looking for work in Boundary County.

Kootenai County

- The Panhandle's largest high-tech firm, Advanced Input Devices (AID), recently landed a \$10.9 million contract to make light switches for U.S. military vehicles. AID designed the light switches so they can be seen by the vehicle's occupants in the dark yet can't be detected from the outside even by night-vision equipment. To locate current lights switches in military vehicles, their occupants must use a flashlight, which requires the use of two hands and can lead to detection. The switches control both interior and exterior lights for the vehicles. AID, primarily known as a manufacturer of keyboards and control panels, employs 300 people in Coeur d'Alene.
- Coeur d'Alene recently welcomed these new businesses: a Candy Bouquet franchise at 501 West Appleway Suite E; Bear Paws Quilting, a store selling quilting supplies, at 296 Sunset Avenue, Suite 30; Coeur d'Alene Indoor Soccer Center, a 14,000-square-foot building enclosing a regulation-sized soccer area where leagues of adults and children play, at 3507 West Seltice Way; and Advantage Fitness, selling exercise equipment and offering personal trainer services, at 348 West Bosanko Avenue.
- Other new businesses in Post Falls include Annette's Place, a hair salon at 1003 North Spokane Street, and Nail Care Academy, 1600 East Seltice Way, which is a beauty school that trains up to 15 students at a time to become nail technicians.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October decreased to 4.3 percent from September's rate of 4.9 percent. In October of 2001 the rate was also 4.3 percent. In spite of the decrease in the unemployment rate, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased only slightly in October. While total jobs increased by 100 from September 2002, there was no change from October 2001. October's increase in jobs was mainly as a result of increases in *Education*; however, the increase was only a normal seasonal adjustment as schools continued to gear up from summer vacation. Compared to October 2001, *Education* has decreased by 210 jobs. Holiday hiring has slowed this year with increases of only 50 jobs in *Wholesale Trade* from September to October 2002. The number of jobs decreased by 130 in *Retail Trade* year-over-year.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Senior Citizens in North Central Idaho

Increasing numbers of senior citizens are moving to North Central Idaho. The 65 years-and-older population exceeds the state average in Nez Perce, Clearwater, Idaho, and Lewis Counties in Idaho, and Asotin and Garfield Counties in Washington. See Seaport Table 2. The only counties in the region that go against the trend are Whitman (Washington) and Latah, where the university towns of Pullman and Moscow are located. Features many residents take for granted make this region ideal for retirement. In the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley the mild weather, long golfing season, and availability of a large hospital are among the draws. Anywhere in the region the price of homes and other necessities is moderate, especially in comparison to the West Coast. These senior citizens also make an impact on the economy. Businesses that serve seniors—health care, lawyers, and accountants—are growing more rapidly than any other part of the economy in North Central Idaho. Many health care employers are hiring workers and building additions. The number of jobs in health care has risen by 1,123, or 37 percent, in North Central Idaho in the last decade. At the same time, the number of nursing home and assisted living beds in

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,970	34,580	34,010	1.1	2.8
Unemployment	1,520	1,710	1,460	-11.1	4.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3%	4.9%	4.3%	-0.6%	0.0%
Total Employment	33,450	32,870	32,550	1.8	2.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,740	34,110	33,790	1.8	2.8
Unemployment	1,290	1,310	1,240	-1.5	4.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	-0.1%	0.0%
Total Employment	33,450	32,800	32,550	2.0	2.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	26,020	25,920	26,020	0.4	0.0
Goods-Producing Industries	5,080	5,240	5,280	-3.1	-3.8
Mining & Construction	1,340	1,490	1,450	-10.1	-7.6
Manufacturing	3,740	3,750	3,830	-0.3	-2.3
Food Processing	80	100	110	-20.0	-27.3
Lumber & Wood Products	660	660	710	0.0	-7.0
Paper Products	1,660	1,660	1,700	0.0	-2.4
All Other Manufacturing	1,340	1,330	1,310	0.8	2.3
Service-Producing Industries	20,940	20,680	20,740	1.3	1.0
Transportation	1,330	1,320	1,360	0.8	-2.2
Communications & Utilities	270	260	280	3.8	-3.6
Wholesale Trade	1,000	950	950	5.3	5.3
Retail Trade	4,850	4,830	4,980	0.4	-2.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,690	1,730	1,400	-2.3	20.7
Services	6,830	6,760	6,580	1.0	3.8
Government Administration	2,680	2,700	2,690	-0.7	-0.4
Government Education	2,290	2,130	2,500	7.5	-8.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Seaport Table2: Senior Population in North Central Idaho

Geographic Area	Total Population	Percent 65 years and older	Median Age (years)
State of Idaho	1,293,953	11.3	33.2
Idaho Counties			
Clearwater County	8,930	15.6	41.7
Idaho County	15,511	17	42.3
Latah County	34,935	9.5	27.9
Lewis County	3,747	18.5	42.5
Nez Perce County	37,410	16.5	38.1
State of Washington	5,894,121	11.2	35.3
Washington Counties			
Asotin County	20,551	16.3	38.8
Garfield County	2,397	20.9	43
Whitman County	40,740	9.2	24.7

Source: US Census Bureau 2000 Census

the region has grown by 68 percent to 1,475. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston is one of the region's largest employers. The hospital has added 180 employees in the last 10 years. Approximately 40 percent of the patients admitted are on Medicare, the government program for people 65 years of age and older. The market doesn't appear to be saturated yet as several new developments are in the works. For example, Kelly Jackson of Grouse Flats, Oregon, is finalizing plans for 48 retirement apartments at 15th and Birch Streets in Clarkston, and Brookside Landing Retirement Center in Orofino is expanding to accommodate more seniors.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Phase 2 of the Orofino Industrial Park has been completed. The concrete foundation, stem walls, a five-foot sidewalk around the building, and paving of the entire site up to the cemetery has been completed, along with delivery of the building shell. The east side of the new building will consist of two commercial offices. Another section will include a conference room and storage rooms, while yet another 10,000-square feet will be open to manufacturing space for prospective light manufacturing customers. This section can be subdivided as needed. According to officials at the City of Orofino, interested tenants are looking for 3000- to 5000-square-foot spaces. The ASE Sign Company will occupy the second half of the structure, 15,000-square feet, at the far end of the building. On the downriver side, there will be a loading dock. The north side—the front of the building—will be built to resemble a storefront. Phase 3 of the project was put out for bids in mid-November. This phase will include all interior improvements to the building. The Orofino Industrial Park is a \$2.4 million project funded largely through grants.

Latah County

- The University of Idaho (UI) accounts for one half-billion dollars in sales in Latah County with students generating \$90.6 million in off-campus sales, according to a joint UI/Latah County economic impact survey, which was released in November. UI is the largest employer in Latah County; Washington State University is the second largest.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Regence BlueShield of Idaho laid off 14 workers at their Lewiston headquarters in November. The layoffs occurred at a time when Regence BlueShield of Idaho had seen its investment income decline. Regence has paid out more money in benefits than it's received in premiums, said Georganne Benjamin, spokeswoman for Regence BlueShield of Idaho. Income from stocks and bonds has helped the company fill the gap, but in recent months those investments didn't perform as well as they had in the past, Benjamin said. The reduc-

tions have no impact on the plans of the Regence Group to add as many as 150 new jobs in a new building at the business technology park near Home Depot. The eliminated jobs involved analyzing reimbursement rates for health care providers and renewing hospital contracts at Regence BlueShield of Idaho. Though the work is still being completed, the tasks were moved or consolidated into other positions, Benjamin said. "We have to continually review how we conduct business and make sure we are performing our administrative functions in the most efficient way possible for our members," Benjamin added. Between 20 and 30 of the new positions are currently being advertised. The new hires will handle claims processing for new customers of Regence affiliates in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Utah. They will also assist with pharmacy benefits. As prescription drugs become a bigger percentage of health care expenses, more employees are needed to manage that area, Benjamin said. Until the new building is completed in February 2004, the new employees will work in Regence's existing Lewiston offices. Work is continuing on the 70,000-square-foot building at the business technology park. The site is being leveled and construction is expected to begin in April. In addition to the new employees, Regence BlueShield of Idaho is also moving more than 300 claims processing and customer service employees, who now work at the company's Bryden Avenue office, to the new site.

- Potlatch Corporation, the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley's largest employer, has announced it is cutting 51 of its 435 full-time salaried employees in Lewiston. They are among 106 workers company-wide who are losing their jobs. According to Potlatch Corporation officials, "We're constantly looking for ways to improve our competitive position and that means continual change is probably something we all need to look forward to. Change is not always negative. The things we are doing are not intended to make things worse, but to make things better." Secretaries, sales representatives, and supervisors are among those affected. In Lewiston, positions were eliminated in every section of the plant, including consumer products, pulp and paperboard, wood products (Clearwater Lumber), and the corporate office. All of the laid-off workers will be eligible for career counseling. Employees will receive severance packages depending on their job titles and length of service with the company. Potlatch expects to spend \$7.5 million to cover those and other costs associated with the announcement.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The October 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.2 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point from the September 2002 rate of 5.1 percent, and up eight-tenths of a percentage point from the October 2001 rate of 4.4 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from September to October by 1,900 individuals, while an increase of 100 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,800 in September to 12,900 in October. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,800 individuals from September to October 2002. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 1,100 unemployed individuals and a decrease of 21,600 employed individuals, which led to a decrease of 20,500 in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the October 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: October 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	179,860	8,273	4.6	171,587
Adams	1,646	231	14.0	1,415
Boise	2,935	175	6.0	2,760
Canyon	69,318	4,650	6.7	64,667
Elmore	9,752	757	7.8	8,995
Gem	6,324	642	10.1	5,683
Owyhee	4,466	191	4.3	4,275
Payette	10,176	973	9.6	9,203
Valley	5,501	411	7.5	5,090
Washington	4,614	474	10.3	4,139
Statewide	687,098	37,650	5.5	649,448

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	249,200	251,000	269,700	-0.7	-7.6
Unemployment	12,900	12,800	11,800	0.8	9.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.1	4.4		
Total Employment	236,300	238,200	257,900	-0.8	-8.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	248,400	249,000	267,800	-0.2	-7.2
Unemployment	11,800	11,600	10,700	1.7	10.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.6	4.0		
Total Employment	236,600	237,400	257,100	-0.3	-8.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	228,900	229,900	232,500	-0.4	-1.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	49,600	50,200	52,800	-1.2	-6.1
Construction & Mining	15,600	15,800	17,000	-1.3	-8.2
Manufacturing	34,000	34,400	35,800	-1.2	-5.0
Durable Goods	25,600	26,000	27,400	-1.5	-6.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,100	3,200	0.0	-3.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,800	7,100	7,600	-4.2	-10.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,200	11,300	12,000	-0.9	-6.7
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,700	1,700	-5.9	-5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,600	1,700	6.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,400	8,400	0.0	0.0
Food & Kindred Products	5,700	5,700	5,700	0.0	0.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	-86.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	179,300	179,700	179,700	-0.2	-0.2
Trans., Comm., & Public Utilities	12,100	12,300	12,100	-1.6	0.0
Transportation	6,800	6,900	6,900	-1.4	-1.4
Comm. & Elec. Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	5,300	5,400	5,200	-1.9	1.9
Trade	55,700	56,500	56,000	-1.4	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,600	12,600	-0.8	-0.8
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,700	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,900	4,900	-2.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	43,200	43,900	43,400	-1.6	-0.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,800	5,700	1.7	3.5
Foods Stores	7,300	7,300	7,600	0.0	-3.9
Eating & Drinking Places	15,300	15,700	15,200	-2.5	0.7
Other Retail Trade	14,700	15,100	14,900	-2.6	-1.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,600	11,700	11,700	-0.9	-0.9
Services	63,300	63,600	63,000	-0.5	0.5
Business Services	13,800	13,600	15,000	1.5	-8.0
Health Services	19,300	19,200	18,600	0.5	3.8
Hospitals	9,300	9,200	8,600	1.1	8.1
Eng, Acct., Res, Mgmt., & Related	5,500	5,600	5,200	-1.8	5.8
Other Services	24,700	25,200	24,200	-2.0	2.1
Government	36,600	35,600	36,900	2.8	-0.8
Federal Government	5,400	5,400	5,300	0.0	1.9
State Government	13,400	13,300	14,100	0.8	-5.0
Education	4,600	4,300	4,900	7.0	-6.1
Administration	8,800	9,000	9,200	-2.2	-4.3
Local Government	17,800	16,900	17,500	5.3	1.7
Education	11,700	10,700	11,500	9.3	1.7
Administration	6,100	6,200	6,000	-1.6	1.7

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Approximately 1,000 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between September and October 2002, while year-over-year there was a decrease of 3,600 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 600 jobs between September and October 2002 with job losses occurring in *Construction & Mining* (200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (300), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (100), and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), while job gains occurred over the same time period in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is similar as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,200 jobs, however, there were no job gains. Job losses occurred in *Construction & Mining* (1,400), *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (800), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipments & Component Manufacturing* (800), and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries lost 400 jobs between September and October 2002. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (400), *Other Retail Trade* (400), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (100), *Other Services* (500), *State Government Administration* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (100) outpaced job increases in *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Business Services* (200), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100), *State Government Education* (300), and *Local Government Education* (1,000) to create a net decrease of jobs in the *Service-Producing Industry* over the month. Most of the job increases occurred in *State* and *Local Government Education*, which is expected during this month as local school districts reopen after summer break for the beginning of fall semester. Year-over-year, there was a decrease of 400 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, although there were job gains in *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Health Services* (700) primarily *Hospitals* (700), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (300), *Other Services* (500), *Federal Government* (100), *Local Government Education* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (100), which were outpaced by job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Nondur-*

able Goods Wholesale Trade (100), *Food Stores* (300), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (100), *Business Services* (1,200), *State Government Education* (300) and *State Government Administration* (400).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- DirecTV in Boise announced in mid-November that it would add 200 people to customer service positions at its call center in west Boise. The new jobs start at \$9.00 per hour.
- Washington Group International (WGI) sold its Electro-Mechanical Division of its Westinghouse Government Service Co. to Curtiss-Wright for nearly \$75 million. The Electro-Mechanical Division had been for sale for nearly a year.
- Boise Airport and military officials announced a plan to create an international air cargo hub for military and civilian uses. The plan, which could add up to 4,000 jobs at the Boise Airport, requires \$80 million in federal monies and permission from the Pentagon to station up to eight C-17 cargo planes in Boise. Congress would make the ultimate decision on the project and, if approved, it could be operational within the next decade.
- United Water Idaho announced plans in early November to build a \$17 million water treatment plant in Southeast Boise. This new plant is intended to accommodate the number of existing and future homes in the area, which is expected to double in the next two decades. Groundbreaking for the project was held in November at the 11-acre site off Columbia Road in Boise. The initial phase of the water treatment facility will be completed in 2004.
- Construction will start in Spring 2003 on a retail and office building complex located at the northeast corner of Eagle Road and Pine Avenue in Meridian. Potentially, the complex could include three office buildings and four smaller retail buildings.
- Plexus in Nampa, formerly the MCMS plant, announced in late October that it would keep its Nampa facility open. Plexus' Nampa facility provides contract manufacturing and employs between 300 and 400 people.
- After Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) announced this fall that the school was more than \$4.5 million in debt, it laid off 20 employees in an attempt to trim its budget. ACI also announced a decrease in tuition to increase student enrollment.

The debt is a result of a poor economy that affected the college's endowment fund, slower enrollment growth, and fewer donations. The board of directors has emphasized that students would not be affected by the cuts. A major fundraising campaign is underway to help with the budget deficit.

- The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce and Caldwell Economic Development Council recently combined locations. Both entities moved to 704 Blaine Street, the former City Hall in Caldwell. The move was an expansion for both the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council. The new location will allow greater visibility for both organizations.
- Walgreens recently opened a new retail outlet at 1012 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell. The 13,650-square-foot facility opened earlier than expected. The store features groceries and household items as well as a drive-through pharmacy and one-hour photo services. Walgreens currently employs 15 people at the Caldwell store.
- The Caldwell Family Resource Center opened in mid-November in Caldwell. The center includes a family literacy center, a classroom for adult education, an early childhood development area, and an office space for community partners. The center employs staff that will provide literacy training, adult basic education, GED, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to parents, grandparents, and foster parents.
- A new road and park are planned for the Canyon County Fairgrounds. The road, to be named Griffith's Parkway, will connect to Stock Trail Road and will provide more parking for the summer fair and festival. The new Griffith's Park will include baseball diamonds and walking paths.
- Impact Training Center, which offers computer and employment skills training and senior citizen classes, opened its facility on 4301 Garritty Boulevard in Nampa in early November.
- Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel broke ground on its newest four-story \$7.8 million facility in late October. The facility will include 101 rooms and will be built near the Idaho Center in north Nampa. The project is scheduled for completion by summer 2003, in time for the Snake River Stampede.
- Boise State University (BSU) held an open house in early November for its Sports Center, which sits next to the Idaho Center in North Nampa.

The Sports Center opened in September and is home to the Boise State indoor track-and-field team. The banked 200-meter track is the only site in the West qualified to hold indoor track meets sanctioned by the U.S. Track and Field Association. The center may also host equine activities.

- Terry Reilly Health Services broke ground in Melba in mid-November for a new health clinic that will open in spring 2003. The 3,500-square-foot clinic will replace the current facility in Melba. The clinic will offer dental services in addition to the medical services provided by the previous clinic. The clinic will service about 10,000 people annually.
- SCP Global Technology announced in early November that it laid off more people from its Boise manufacturing facility. The company declined to state how many were laid off.
- Investors agreed to purchase Meridian's creamery, located at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Meridian Road. The investors hope to turn the building into a retail and office complex. Plans for the site may include an Italian restaurant, an ice cream parlor, a farmer's market, a wine shop, and a daycare center.
- *The following is a list of business news in the Boise City MSA.* Just Strays Animal Foundation Feline Adoption Center opened in Boise, Panaderia & Pasteleria plans to open a second Idaho bakery in the Shiloh Centre in Boise, Budget Office Furnishings announced plans to relocate to the former Skateworld building in Boise, Fred A. Morton & Co. moved to a new office in the Boise Research Center in west Boise, Farberware opened a store in the Boise Factory Outlet Mall, Maggie Moo's announced plans to open its first Idaho ice cream shop in west Boise in December, Baja Fresh is opening two eateries (Boise and Meridian) in December, Mountain West Bank opened a lending center in Meridian, The Porterhouse reopened its meat store in Eagle, Idaho Central Credit Union opened a branch in Nampa, Farmers and Merchants State Bank opened a new branch in Nampa, Simple Seasons gift shop opened in Nampa, Graphic Solutions opened in Nampa, Country Care opened the Meadows (an assisted living center) in Nampa, Chapala will open a new restaurant in Nampa, and the Tux Store opened in its new location in the Edwards Theater Complex in Nampa.

Adams County

- Clearwater Research announced that the company is leaving Council. Company officials cited economic realities as a reason for the closure. In order to improve efficiency, the company decided to eliminate the Council satellite office and consolidate in Boise. Company officials promised employees "generous severance packages" that include a bonus for employees who started working there before December 1, 2001, and who continued working for the company through December 15, 2002. All employees were offered positions at the Boise facility.

Gem County

- Gem County and hospital officials began looking at a renovation/expansion project for Walter Knox Memorial Hospital. The project would cost nearly \$6 million and would complete the last two phases of the hospital's renovations that started about five years ago. These phases of the project could add about 4,500-square feet to the existing facility. The \$6 million for the project would come from the hospital's regular revenue.
- Albertsons Inc. announced plans in early November to open a new store in Emmett on the northeast corner of Johns Avenue and Highway 16 by summer 2003. The new store will be nearly twice as large as the current Albertsons located on Washington Avenue. Once the new store is open, the old store will be closed. Construction on the project started in November and will feature larger departments with a wider selection of products. Approximately 100 people are currently employed at the Emmett Albertsons; additional employees will be hired when the new store opens.

Payette County

- The Payette County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) moved to its new office in mid-November on the southeast corner of the Payette Courthouse property. The new office is in a renovated garage/storage facility. The renovation was paid for through reimbursement funds that the county received from the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI). The new office is much larger than the DMV's previous facility.
- DJ Foods in New Plymouth sold its building to Internet Truck Stop who will turn the building into office space. DJ Foods closed in late October but will reopen at the former Al's Market location. Another store, EZ Mart, is scheduled to open next to the U.S. Post Office in December.

- Two new businesses recently opened in Payette County—L&L Enterprises and 4B's Storage & Stuff. L&L Enterprises is located at 222 Southwest Third Avenue in Fruitland and 4B's Storage & Stuff is located at 100 South Iowa Avenue in Fruitland.

Valley County

- The McCall Ice Rink and Event Center will open by July 4, 2003, which is later than the Memorial Day opening originally cited. The center will feature a year-round refrigerated ice rink built to National Hockey League specifications, which will be the centerpiece of the complex. The center will also include bleachers to seat 600 people, two locker rooms, a concession area, and an eating plaza that will accommodate an additional 40 people. Adjacent to the rink, a 50-car two-level parking garage will be built to help ease parking along the already-busy Lake Street.
- Mountain Monet opened at 310 East Lake Street in McCall. Mountain Monet provides customers the chance to paint their own pottery.

Washington County

- Rolling Hills Golf Course in Weiser officially closed for the season on October 31, 2002. The Weiser Golf Association Board of Directors announced in late August that a bankruptcy filing was inevitable. The board is attempting to sell the golf course to someone willing to assume the debt and keep the course open to the public, although there have been no offers so far.
- The Weiser Rehabilitation and Care Center recently added two new employees to its staff. Adam Mendenhall, a physical therapist, will manage the Rehabilitation Department as well as provide physical therapy to patients. Kristi Belnap was hired as a speech language pathologist, and will provide outpatient therapy to area hospitals and schools.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area was 3.9 percent in October 2002. This was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than September 2002, but four-tenths of a percentage point lower than October 2001. The *Civilian Labor Force* was 1.5 percent higher year-over-year.

Some improvement in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* has taken place over the last month. September 2002 data showed that *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were 6.9 percent lower than a year previously, however October 2002 shows only a 1.5 percent decrease from the year before. The sectors that showed increases were *Manufacturing-Durable Goods*, *Manufacturing-Other Durable Goods*, *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities*, and *Government-Administration* increases of 3.6, 1.0, 3.8, and 2.7 percent, respectively. Sectors that continued to lose jobs were *Retail Trade*, *Services*, and *Government-Education* with decreases of 2.4, 4.7, and 2.4 percent, respectively.

October 2002 was the first month in nearly six months to show percentage improvement in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. Much of this can be attributable to strong holiday hiring. Also, consumer confidence has remained high in the western Magic Valley and retailers seem to be doing well. Consequently, the Magic Valley economy continues to outperform most of the rest of the state. The Magic Valley LMA is second only to Bonneville LMA in low unemployment and, by comparison, the Magic Valley economy appears to be the most robust in Idaho. When the national and state-wide recessions turn around, South Central Idaho will be poised to lead the state out of the economic doldrums.

SPECIAL TOPIC

2002 Agricultural Overview

Overall, the 2002 agricultural year was positive in South Central Idaho. The

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	49,330	49,210	48,590	0.2	1.5
Unemployment	1,900	1,870	2,090	1.6	-9.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.3		
Total Employment	47,430	47,340	46,500	0.2	2.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,060	50,400	49,250	-0.7	1.6
Unemployment	1,590	1,550	1,730	2.6	-8.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	3.5		
Total Employment	48,470	48,850	47,520	-0.8	2.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	39,030	39,540	39,590	-1.3	-1.4
Goods-Producing Industries	7,130	7,660	7,110	-6.9	0.3
Mining & Construction	1,890	2,030	1,890	-6.9	0.0
Manufacturing	5,240	5,630	5,220	-6.9	0.4
Durable Goods	860	910	830	-5.5	3.6
Nondurable Goods	4,380	4,720	4,390	-7.2	-0.2
Food Processing	3,390	3,720	3,410	-8.9	-0.6
All Other Nondurable Goods	990	1,000	980	-1.0	1.0
Service-Producing Industries	31,900	31,790	32,480	0.3	-1.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,750	2,780	2,650	-1.1	3.8
Wholesale Trade	2,260	2,290	2,250	-1.3	0.4
Retail Trade	8,020	8,050	8,220	-0.4	-2.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,290	1,290	1,290	0.0	0.0
Services	10,160	10,130	10,660	0.3	-4.7
Government Administration	3,820	3,830	3,720	-0.3	2.7
Government Education	3,600	3,420	3,690	5.3	-2.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

year began with serious water concerns, as reservoir carryover was extremely low. In late 2001, heavy storms dumped large amounts of snow and helped alleviate concerns. Although the water year tapered off after the beginning of 2002, the water supply was adequate for the crop year.

Dry bean production was up considerably from 2001 because the market was more stable than in the past five years and farmers could plant beans with reasonable profit expectations. Production was up approximately 30 percent in South Central Idaho, and yields were estimated at 2,000 pounds (20 sacks) per acre, up about 50 pounds per acre over 2001. Production of alfalfa hay was up more than 10 percent over 2001 as dairy demand remained strong for feed products. Statewide, the estimated alfalfa production was 4.88 million tons, up 12 percent over 2001, and the largest production level on record for Idaho. Harvested acreage was also at a record high of 1.25 million acres. Sugar beet production was also up this year, although yields were down slightly from last year. A spring freeze in

the Mini-Cassia area caused many farmers to replant sugar beets and this typically reduces yield. However, yields in the Mini-Cassia area were close to normal and the quality remained good. Potato prices were much higher than expected on the open market. However, the potato farmers endured a severe blow when the J. R. Simplot Company in Heyburn reduced contracts and then later said it would be closing its Heyburn plant in April 2004. Although the crop was excellent and prices were good overall, farmers all over South Central Idaho now have to cope with the challenge that there will not be as many potato contracts in the future and they may have to grow alternative crops such as wheat and barley instead of potatoes.

The dairy industry remained stable and strong in 2002 despite some reduction in milk prices. Dairy milk production in Idaho was up approximately 4.7 percent in August 2002 with 713 million pounds. Milk production per cow was 1,820 pounds in August 2002, which was 20 pounds per cow less than August 2001. At one time this year, Idaho moved past Minnesota to become the fifth largest dairy producing state in the United States. However, the beef industry did not have as robust a year as the dairy industry did in 2002. Feeder cattle were down 10 percent in August 2002, totaling 275,000 head.

The outlook for 2003 is somewhat uncertain. The water carryover from 2002 is extremely low and good moisture is needed this winter to ensure adequate crops. Demand for dry beans, wheat, barley, hay, and sugar beets should remain fairly strong and prices will probably be comparable to previous years. The outlook for potatoes is going to be uncertain in South Central Idaho. The proposed closure of the J. R. Simplot Plant in Heyburn will adversely impact potato contracts. The company has not announced yet how or whether it will be contracting. This affects nearly 24,000 acres of potatoes throughout many Idaho counties. Therefore, farmers will have to decide whether they will try to contract potatoes or even grow potatoes at all. This depends on the open market potatoes, which were unusually strong in 2002, but could be affected by oversupply. The dairy situation in the Magic Valley should remain fairly stable. One of the big questions in 2003 is how the dairy industry will expand in the Mini-Cassia area. It is probable that some new Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) will be started in Mini-Cassia, however, new legislation and environmental concerns could slow growth in that industry and it is uncertain how much expansion will take place. The western Magic Valley will probably see stabilization of the dairy industry, but not the tremendous growth of the last decade. Jobs will probably be available in that sector but due more to attrition rather than new job creation. Cheese factories are very supply-dependent and large increases in CAFO's are not expected in Twin Falls, Jerome, or Gooding Counties and

this will probably preclude significant new job growth in the industry. The outlook for beef, lamb and sheep, hogs, etc. will probably be similar to 2002 with somewhat disappointing prices. The outlook for trout production, a huge industry in South Central Idaho, remains closely tied to the state and national economies. Seafood and fish demand are cyclical, also tied to the economy because people tend to purchase these products as luxury items. If discretionary income is less, people typically change to buying less expensive products, so the outlook for aquaculture is uncertain and will be affected by national trends. As always, agriculture remains an extremely important sector in South Central Idaho and farmers in this area will continue to be some of the top producers in Idaho and the United States.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- The new Walgreens Pharmacy opened the week of November 15. The company has hired approximately 40 new employees; approximately 15 are pharmacy workers.

Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties

- The Sun Valley Company opened several ski runs November 26, two days early for the 2002-2003 ski season. Excellent early snows, cold weather, and successful snow-making contributed to the early opening, which will help the Sun Valley economy get off to an excellent start for 2003.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- The Mini-Cassia Job Service, the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce, the Mini-Cassia Development Commission, and Senator Dean Cameron helped sponsor a Job and Career Fair at the Best Western Burley Inn. The event was considered a tremendous success with over forty entrants; approximately two-thirds were employers looking for workers. All three Idaho universities and the College of Southern Idaho were represented, as well as the U.S. Armed Forces. Over 500 people came to the Job Fair. Employers and service providers were able to make many connections, and several prospective employees filled out applications. The Best Western Burley Inn provided its convention center for the event at no cost.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) unemployment rate for October 2002 was 5.8 percent, the same as September 2002, but was seven-tenths of a percentage point above the 5.1 percent rate experienced in October 2001. The MSA's October unemployment rate remained above Idaho's rate of 5.5 percent and the national rate of 5.7 percent.

Although the area has suffered major job losses from business closures and downsizing because of the national recession, it has not been as adversely affected as in previous recessions. The MSA's annual average unemployment rate was 6.9 percent in 1991 (a recession that most believe did not truly hit the area), 10.2 percent in 1986, and 8.3 percent in 1982, three previous U.S. recessions.

As shown in Table 1, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 70 from September to October 2002, from 32,830 to 32,760 jobs. The seasonal changes from brisk summer construction, recreation, and farming activities to more normal levels in the fall accounted for the small decrease. The large decrease of 500 jobs in *Services*, from 8,220 in September 2002 to 7,720 in October 2002, was partially due to a shift from one industry to another rather than a loss of jobs. When Pocatello's two hospitals merged, it created a change in the classifications in which those jobs were reported. Since Pocatello Regional Medical Center was a private business, it was classified under *Health Services* within the *Services* industry group. Bannock Regional Medical Center is a county-owned hospital and is classified under *Hospitals* within the *Government Administration* industry group. After consolidation, the employment at both facilities is reported under *Hospitals* within the *Government Administration* industry group. Therefore, more than 300 jobs moved from *Services* to *Government Administration*. The remaining job reductions in *Services* were normal seasonal reductions

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,330	40,210	39,300	0.3	2.6
Unemployment	2,320	2,330	2,010	-0.4	15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	5.8	5.1		
Total Employment	38,010	37,880	37,290	0.3	1.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,350	40,040	39,320	0.8	2.6
Unemployment	2,090	2,050	1,790	2.0	16.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.1	4.6		
Total Employment	38,260	37,990	37,530	0.7	1.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	32,760	32,830	33,280	-0.2	-1.6
Goods-Producing Industries	4,290	4,430	4,380	-3.2	-2.1
Mining & Construction	1,630	1,740	1,710	-6.3	-4.7
Manufacturing	2,660	2,690	2,670	-1.1	-0.4
Service-Producing Industries	28,470	28,400	28,900	0.2	-1.5
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,820	1,800	1,830	1.1	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	1,360	1,320	1,410	3.0	-3.5
Retail Trade	6,470	6,510	6,720	-0.6	-3.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,810	1,810	1,700	0.0	6.5
Services	7,720	8,220	8,040	-6.1	-4.0
Government Administration	3,770	3,510	3,500	7.4	7.7
Government Education	5,520	5,230	5,700	5.5	-3.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

in *Hotels and Motels, Amusement and Recreation*, and fluctuations in call center activities.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Please note: Information contained in *Economic Developments* is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

- Eastern Idaho received national attention in the December 2, 2002, issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. The article reported on Idaho's changing economy and advancement in high technology, and featured the emerging technological corridor in Eastern Idaho, which runs along Interstate 15 from Bannock County to Madison County. The article cites Eastern Idaho's unique blend of Ph.D.s and pickup trucks, and quoted area business and community leaders.
- The area's effort to develop its technology corridor, and its economic development in general, was also recognized by the International Economic Development Council in September. The Eastern Idaho Web Portal received the International Economic Development Award for its Internet site promoting the region. The site is located at www.eastidaho.org. As a part of this ongoing effort, a TechConnect-East office has been opened in Pocatello.

Bannock County

- Construction has begun on Idaho State University's L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center. The foundation and framing has been completed. The 110,000-square-foot facility should be completed by spring 2004.
- A Boise-based company has announced it will build a \$1.3 million linear accelerator, which will expand Idaho State University's Accelerator Center. Accelerators are machines that can speed up molecules, subatomic particles, and elementary particles, such as electrons and protons. The business will use the accelerator to create positrons to detect defects in equipment. The expansion, which should begin by late spring 2003, will add two workers initially with plans to add another 28 positions in the future. Completion of the expansion is expected by 2004. Idaho State University will construct two additional accelerator laboratories and associated facilities at the accelerator site.
- The U.S. Transportation Security Administration took over airport security screening at the Pocatello Regional Airport in October. The transition added 23 workers whose sole responsibility is security screening.
- The merger of Pocatello's two hospitals, Bannock and Pocatello Regional Medical Centers, was completed in October 2002. The merger combines the operation of the two facilities under the direction of the county hospital, now renamed Portneuf Medical Center. Services will continue to be offered at both the Hospital Way and Memorial Drive sites, now identified as Portneuf Medical Center – East Campus and Portneuf Medical Center – West Campus. Portneuf Medical Center administrator, Pat Hermanson, recently announced that Portneuf Medical Center would begin implementation of a new program to offer open-heart surgery and other invasive heart treatments. These new services should be available within the next 18 months.
- Pocatello received an \$11.1 million loan from the U.S. Department of Environmental Quality to complete the last phase of the city's wastewater treatment upgrade. The three-phase project began in 1997. Completion of phase II of the project is expected by the end of 2002 and the city has taken bids for phase III.
- To further the development of the Eastern Idaho Technology Corridor and develop science and technology enterprises throughout the region, a new regional science and technology office—TechConnect East—has opened in Pocatello. Larry Gebhardt has been hired as the director and the of-

fice is located in the Idaho State University Business & Technology Center on Alvin Ricken Drive.

Bingham County

- Blackfoot Hydraulics opened at 255 South Broadway in Blackfoot. The new business builds custom hoses, repairs and rebuilds hydraulic systems, troubleshoots hydraulic problems, and does component replacement.
- The Blackfoot Medical Center moved into its new facility, the former Rite Aid building on Parkway Drive, at the end of October. The 36,000-square-foot building has been under renovation for more than a year. In addition to its 14 doctors who provide a variety of specialties, the medical center includes the Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy Center and the Blackfoot Medical Counseling Associates.

Franklin County

- An open house was held for the new fire and ambulance station at 43 West 100 South in Preston. The new facility houses fire and ambulance vehicles, supplies, and equipment in one location. The facility has a training room, offices, and EMS workers quarters.

Oneida County

- The Bestway Mall opened at the former Dan's Bestway Grocery Store in Malad. Mall tenants offered a variety of demonstrations and free services during a grand opening celebration. The mall has professional offices and retail businesses.

Power County

- Melody Lanes in American Falls completed its dining room remodeling project, which began in August, and held an open house in November. The business remodeled a game room into a larger and upgraded dining room. The old dining room will now be renovated and turned into a conference facility.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) experienced an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent, seasonally-adjusted, in October. This was an increase of three-tenths of a percentage point from September, as shown in Northeast Table 1. All four counties in the LMA contributed to the increase with Butte County showing the largest increase, 1.0 percent, for a rate of 5.0 percent. Bonneville County only increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.3 percent. Year-over-year, the LMA's unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, with Bingham County showing a decrease of eight-tenths of a percentage point for a rate of 3.9 percent. Most of the employment changes in Bingham County at this time of year are a result of scheduled maintenance layoffs and potato harvests, which are controlled by slight seasonal variations in crop maturation time. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed both a month-over-month and year-over-year increase of two-tenths of a percentage point for a 3.6 percent rate for October 2002.

Other counties in the region experienced month-over-month increases such as Custer County, which had a 1.7 percentage point increase for a rate of 7.8 percent, and Fremont County, with a 1.0 percent increase for a rate of 4.8 percent. Only two counties showed decreases from September to October 2002—Clark County decreased six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent, and Teton County decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point to 3.1 percent. Year-over-year, unemployment rates in Fremont and Madison Counties decreased while the other counties experienced increases. Custer County showed the largest increase of 1.8 percentage points. Madison, Teton, Jefferson, and Bonneville Counties had the lowest unemployment rates in the

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,070	81,960	79,080	1.4	5.0
Unemployment	2,920	2,640	2,840	10.6	2.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.2	3.6		
Total Employment	80,140	79,320	76,240	1.0	5.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,380	83,550	80,280	1.0	5.1
Unemployment	2,490	2,820	2,380	-11.7	4.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	3.4	3.0		
Total Employment	81,890	80,730	77,900	1.4	5.1
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	63,650	63,410	61,780	0.4	3.0
Goods-Producing Industries	10,810	10,670	9,680	1.3	11.7
Mining & Construction	5,360	5,550	4,900	-3.4	9.4
Manufacturing	5,450	5,120	4,780	6.4	14.0
Food Processing	2,660	2,280	2,430	16.7	9.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	570	590	450	-3.4	26.7
All Other Manufacturing	2,220	2,250	1,900	-1.3	16.8
Service-Producing Industries	52,840	52,740	52,100	0.2	1.4
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,380	2,290	2,450	3.9	-2.9
Wholesale Trade	5,000	5,000	5,090	0.0	-1.8
Retail Trade	11,270	11,390	11,110	-1.1	1.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	2,000	2,010	1,880	-0.5	6.4
Services	21,620	22,010	20,870	-1.8	3.6
Government Administration	5,250	5,310	5,270	-1.1	-0.4
Government Education	5,320	4,730	5,430	12.5	-2.0
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

state in October, at 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 percent, respectively. For all county rates in October, see State Table 1 on page 3.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased 240 jobs from September to October 2002. *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Producing Industries* added jobs almost equally. *Construction* lost almost 200 jobs as cold and humid weather restricted activity. Another loss of almost 400 jobs occurred in *Services*, specifically *Amusement, Recreation* and *Hotels & Other Lodging*. Industries showing favorable gains include *Manufacturing*, *Government Education*, and *Communication*. The *Food Processing* sector showed an increase when employees started back to work after annual maintenance layoffs, and the *Communication* industry is rebounding somewhat from the earlier downturn in the national economy.

Year-over-year comparisons showed an overall increase in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* of 1,870, with a gain of 1,130 jobs in *Goods-Producing Industries* and an increase of 740 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*. *Services*, *Manufacturing*, and *Construction* showed collective gains of 1,880 jobs. Out of these, *Special Trades* in *Construction*, *Nondurable Goods* in *Manufacturing*,

and *Business Services* and *Hotels & Other Lodging in Services* have shown the greater increases. Decreases were only apparent in the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Government Education* experienced the largest decrease, 110 jobs, as budgetary restraints affected jobs at the beginning of the new school year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Taylor Crossing on the River, a premier commercial development in Idaho Falls, recently held an open house at the Joseph A. Clark building. It is the second building in a development that will eventually include at least 20 buildings, and it features extensive landscaping and waterways. The building is named after the city's first mayor; each of the buildings in the development will be named after historical figures from Idaho Falls. The building is now open to tenants and still has room for more. Cooper Norman & Co. moved from Capital Avenue to occupy a large part of the main level. McNeil Development, the company in charge of building the development, will also be housed in the Clark building. The \$4 million, 30,000-square-foot building touts Georgian architecture with marble-appointed bathrooms, travertine doors, and an impressive chandelier above a three-story staircase. It also includes 20 spaces of heated underground parking for tenants, a design planned for other buildings in the same development. Groundbreaking on the third building has already begun. The project is expected to extend over 10 years.
- Mountain View Hospital recently opened for business in Idaho Falls off of Channing Way. Twenty-three local physicians own 85 percent of the hospital; the ASC Group owns the remaining 15 percent. The hospital specializes in women's services, labor and delivery, and orthopedics. It has 20 beds—12 for in-patient post-surgical care, and eight for labor and delivery and post-childbirth care. The new hospital has an agreement with the larger Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center to send patients there who may need more specific care. The hospitals are one-quarter of a mile apart.

Butte County

- Argonne National Laboratory will offer voluntary separation to 250 eligible employees in Idaho and Illinois in an effort to avoid making additional layoffs. Overall, the company needs to cut 40 jobs to focus on its new mission, which is fuel recycling. Currently, Argonne has more employees in the physics field than it needs. Under the new mis-

sion, more employees with a chemical engineering background are needed.

Madison County

- The City of Rexburg's Planning and Zoning Committee has decided it will not consider any more zoning changes until it has had time to discuss its position on several challenges brought about by the growth of Brigham Young University - Idaho. The City wants to assure that zoning is adequate for growth in the city. It also wants to make sure that zoning regulations cover the types of businesses that are compatible with the town.
- Rexburg was named among the top 120 small towns in America for people who want to leave fast-paced city life and move to a more relaxing environment, according to a new book, "The Best Small Towns in America: How to Find a Great Little Place As Your Next Home Base." Towns are judged on crime rates, growth, proportion of young adults to the rest of the population, number of physicians, cost of living, climate, and many other factors. The author, Norman Crampton, has chosen Rexburg two previous times.
- The groundbreaking ceremony for Brigham Young University - Idaho's new Student Health and Counseling Center took place at the end of November. The 22,500-square-foot building will be built on the south side of campus and will free up space in the Clarke building, which currently houses the health center, and the Kimball Building, which houses the counseling center. The new facility will include 12 exam rooms and a large procedure room for minor surgeries on the first floor. The counseling center will be located on the second floor and will include 13 counseling offices, a testing room, and two group counseling rooms. The building will also include a drive-up area for student drop-off, a pharmacy, an X-ray facility, a lab area, and an expanded reception and waiting area. The completion date is set for April 2004.

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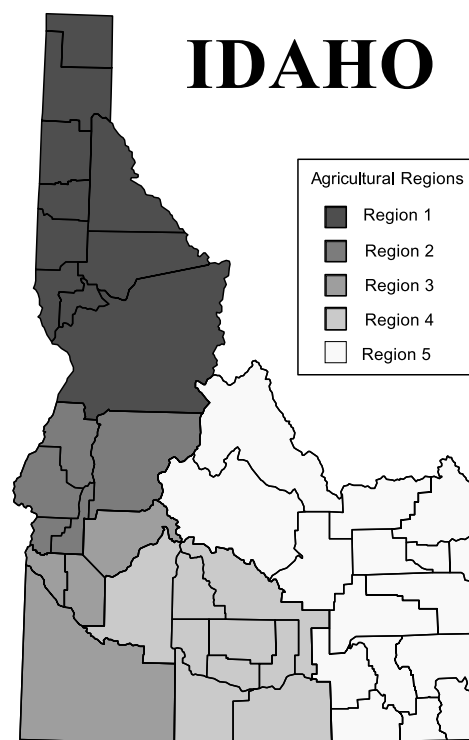
WAGES & BENEFITS FOR SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS — 2001 & 2002

While fewer agricultural employers in Idaho hired only in-state seasonal workers in 2002 compared to 2001, the percentage of in-state workers actually increased. Agricultural wages increased slightly from 2001 to 2002 and more agricultural employers provided housing and food for their workers. The increase in food and housing could be a result of hiring more out-of-state workers, because agricultural employers are required to provide these benefits to foreign contract workers covered by the federal foreign contract labor program (H2A program).

Every year the Idaho Department of Labor is responsible for conducting wage surveys for agricultural workers in three job categories: *Farmworker—Diversified Crops*, *Farmworker—General I*, and *Irrigators*. The information gathered is used to determine the prevailing wage in the state of Idaho for foreign contract labor and to determine average wages and benefits provided to seasonal workers—those not working the entire year (excluding vacations)—by state and by region. This article focuses on 2001-to-2002 comparisons of the data for two categories, *Farmworker—Diversified Crops* and *Farmworker—General I*. *Irrigators* will be covered in another article at a later date.

Idaho has five agricultural regions, which are determined with respect to crops and activities. See *FYI Chart 1*. Region 1, comprised of all counties north of and including Idaho County, was not surveyed because of the limited amount of agricultural activity there and the fact that no employers there contract through the H2A program. Region 2 consists of Adams, Gem, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties. Region 3 includes Ada, Boise, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties, and Region 4 includes Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties. The largest area, Region 5, includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton Counties.

FYI Chart 1: Idaho Agricultural Regions



Farmworker—Diversified Crops (FWC)

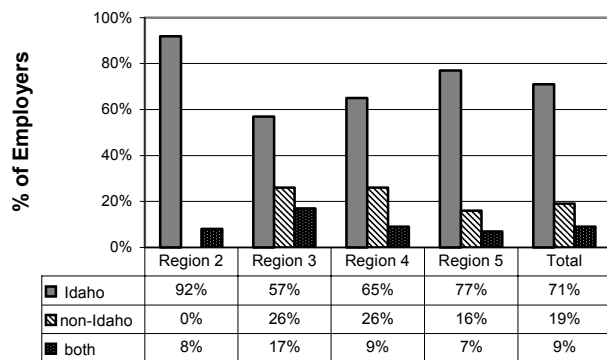
FWC workers perform a variety of tasks related to crop production, such as weeding or thinning fields and changing out implements. They do not work with animals or perform maintenance and repair work on equipment.

More agricultural employers hired workers from outside Idaho in 2002 than in 2001. In 2001, 71 percent of the agricultural employers in Idaho hired only in-state workers, while 19 percent of the employers hired only out-of-state employees. See *FYI Chart 2 on page 22*. A smaller portion (9 percent) hired a mixture of both in-state and out-of-state workers. In the following year, a higher percentage of employers hired out-of-state workers (30 percent) or a mixture of both (16 percent). This increase is consistent throughout all of the agricultural regions. See *FYI Chart 3 on page 22*. In 2001, the seasonal workforce consisted of 70 percent in-state workers, with the remaining 30 percent from out-of-state. In 2002, this changed to a closer proportion of in-state workers (55 percent) and out-of-state workers (45 percent). See *FYI Chart*

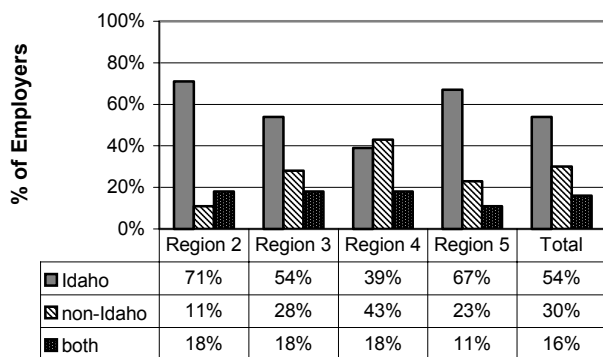
4. In Region 4 there were more out-of-state workers (55 percent) than in-state workers (45 percent).

The method of payment used by agricultural employers changed very little from 2001 to 2002. The majority of agricultural employers paid workers by the hour (82 percent and 84 percent, respectively), while a smaller number (14 percent and 11 percent, respectively) paid by the month. Other employers either paid by the week, day, acre, box, bale, or trailer. *See FYI Table 1.*

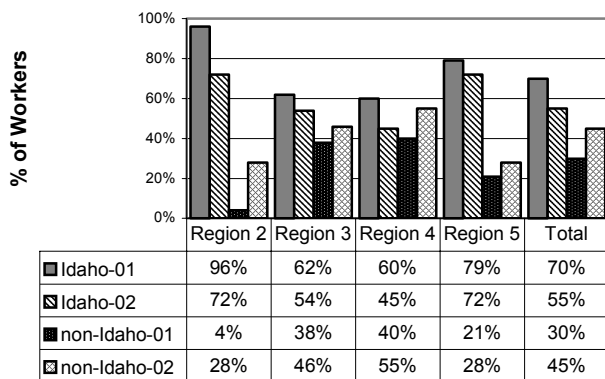
FYI Chart 2: Percentage Breakdown of FWC Employers' Farmworkers' Residency by Region—2001



FYI Chart 3: Percentage Breakdown of FWC Employers' Farmworkers' Residency by Region—2002



FYI Chart 4: Percent of FWC Workers by Residency and Region 2001 and 2002, Compared

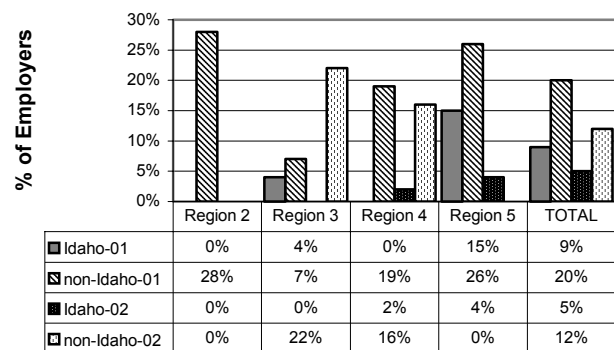


Most benefits offered by agricultural employers increased from 2001 to 2002 for both in-state and out-of-state workers. The food provision benefit increased substantially from 2001 to 2002, though food provisions vary for in-state or out-of-state workers from region to region. *See FYI Chart 5.* More employers also provided transportation to and from the worksite in 2002 (43 percent in-state, 26 percent out-of-state) than in 2001 (24 percent in-state, 17 percent out-of-state). *See FYI Chart 6.* Bonuses, which increased slightly, were more common in Regions 4 and 5 than in Regions 2 and

FYI Table 1: Percentage of FWC Employers by Payment Method and by Year

Payment Method	% Employers	
	2001	2002
By Acre	3%	4
By Box	<1%	<1%
Daily	0%	0%
Hourly	82%	84%
Monthly	14%	11%
By Trailer	<1%	<1%
Weekly	<1%	<1%

FYI Chart 5: Percent of FWC Employers Who Provided Food by Residency, Region, and Year



FYI Chart 6: Percent of FWC Employers Who Provided Transportation, by Residency, Region, and Year

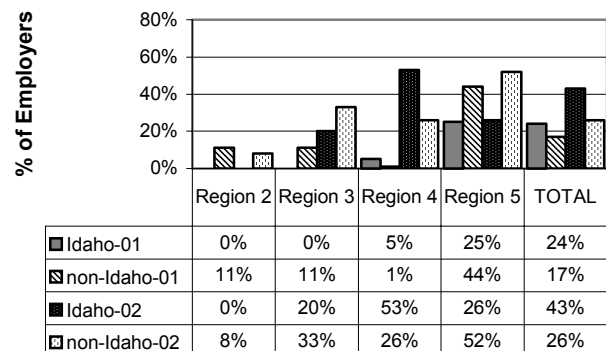


Table 2: Average Wages for In-State, Out-of-State, and Total FWC Workers by Area and Year

	Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Total Average	\$6.72	\$6.19	\$5.73	\$5.80	\$6.55	\$6.42	\$6.40	\$6.99
In-State Average	\$6.79	\$6.10	\$5.73	\$5.75	\$6.62	\$6.46	\$6.37	\$7.06
Out-of-State Average	* insufficient data	\$6.43	\$5.72	\$5.86	\$6.39	\$6.41	\$6.46	\$6.76

3, with little difference between in-state and out-of-state workers. See FYI Chart 7. Housing was provided at much higher rates in Regions 4 and 5 because those employers had higher percentages of out-of-state workers, though housing was still a fairly common benefit for in-state workers, as well. See FYI Chart 8.

Wages increased slightly from 2001 to 2002, mostly due to an increase in Region 5. Overall, the increase was less than twenty-five cents. In 2001, the average wage for all regions was \$6.16 per hour; the average wage rose to \$6.28 per hour in 2002—about a 2 percent increase. Region 5 saw the highest increase with its total wage increasing by fifty-nine cents. This region had wages over \$1.00 more an hour than Region 3, the lowest paying region. From 2001 to 2001, Regions 2 and 4 experienced decreases in wages. The wages of in-

state and out-of-state workers were not significantly different. See FYI Table 2.

Farmworker—General I (FWG)

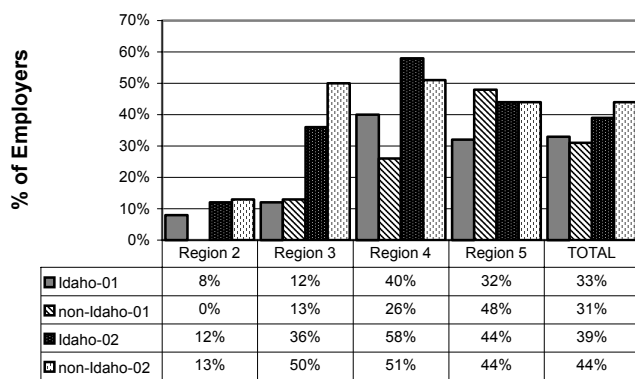
The FWG category of workers is very similar to the FWC category, but in addition to crop-related tasks, workers also perform tasks involving livestock or mechanical work on farm equipment. This category has fewer workers than diversified crops, in part because a number of these positions are year-round and this survey covered only seasonal workers.

Statewide, there was only a slight decrease (3 percent) in the number of agricultural employers hiring only in-state FWG workers from 2001 to 2002. Regions 2 and 3 both had increases in the number of employers who hired only in-state workers. In Region 3, employers who hired only in-state workers increased from 60 percent to 75 percent. One factor that could have contributed to this change is that the number of employers surveyed decreased substantially. In 2001, 15 employers in Region 3 responded to the survey; only eight responded in 2002. Regions 4 and 5 each had a decrease in the number of employers who hired only in-state workers. Region 5 experienced the biggest change, dropping from 92 percent of employers hiring only in-state workers to 56 percent hiring only in-state workers. In Region 4, the employers hiring only in-state workers dropped from 58 percent in 2001 to 50 percent in 2002. See FYI Charts 9 and 10 on page 24.

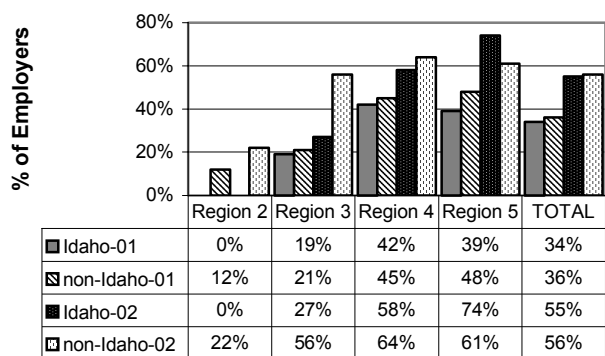
The percentage of out-of-state agricultural workers in Idaho decreased from 40 percent of the workforce to 32 percent of the workforce. Despite this overall decrease, both Regions 4 and 5 had higher percentages of out-of-state workers in 2002 than in 2001. Similar to FWC workers, Region 4 had a higher percentage of out-of-state FWG workers (54 percent) than in-state FWG workers (46 percent). See FYI Chart 11 on page 24.

As in the FWC category, most FWG employers (76 percent in 2001, 74 percent in 2002) in Idaho paid their workers by the hour and a smaller number (23 percent in 2001, 24 percent in 2002)

FYI Chart 7: Percent of FWC Employers Who Paid Bonuses by Residency, Region, and Year



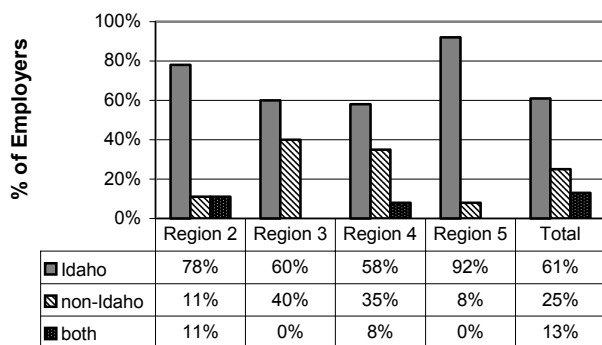
FYI Chart 8: Percent of FWC Employers Who Provided Housing by Residency, Region, and Year



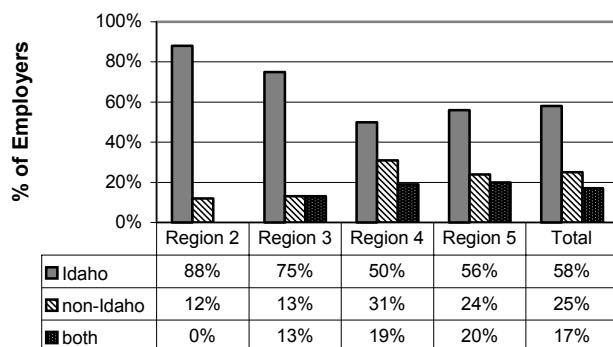
paid by the month. Other employers paid by the week or the day. *See FYI Table 3.*

While more FWG employers in Idaho provided housing and food for their workers in 2002 than in 2001, fewer provided transportation or bonuses. There was an increase of 14 percent in the number of FWG employers providing food to their workers from 2001 to 2002. *See FYI Chart 12.* Both bonuses and transportation to and from work decreased slightly statewide. *See FYI Charts 13 and 14.* Bonuses paid by employers dipped from 50 percent in 2001

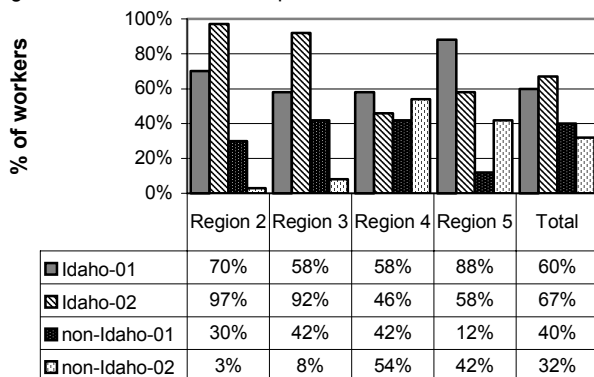
FYI Chart 9: Percentage Breakdown of FWG Employers' Farmworkers' Residency by Region—2001



FYI Chart 10: Percentage Breakdown of FWG Employers' Farmworkers' Residency by Region—2002



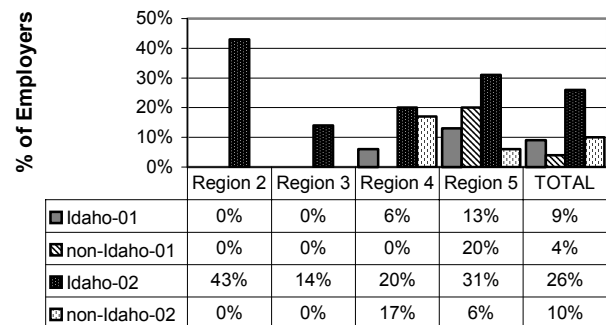
FYI Chart 11: Percent of FWG Workers by Residency and Region— 2001 and 2002, Compared



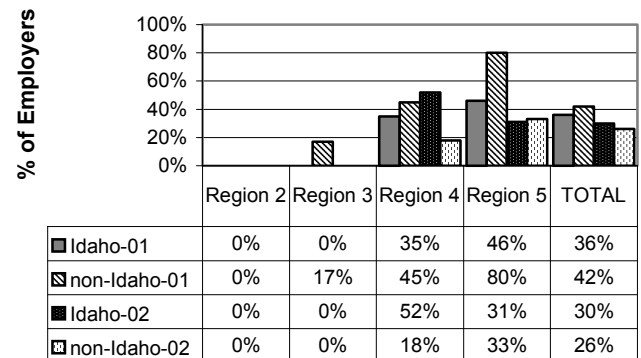
FYI Table 3: Percentage of FWG Employers by Payment Method and Year

Payment Method	% Employers	
	2001	2002
Daily	1%	<1%
Hourly	76%	74%
Monthly	23%	24%
Weekly	0%	3%

FYI Chart 12: Percent of FWG Employers Who Provided Food by Residency, Region, and Year



FYI Chart 13: Percent of FWG Employers Who Provided Transportation by Residency, Region, and Year



FYI Chart 14: Percent of FWG Employers Who Paid Bonuses by Residency, Region, and Year

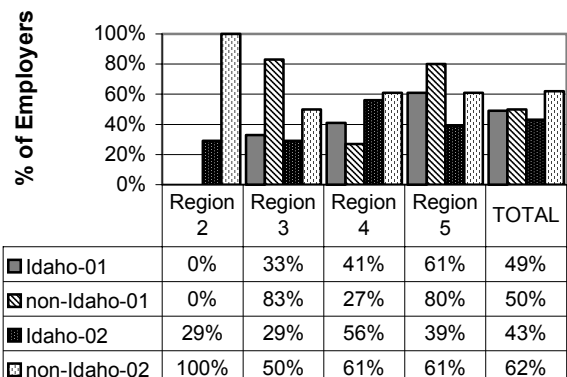
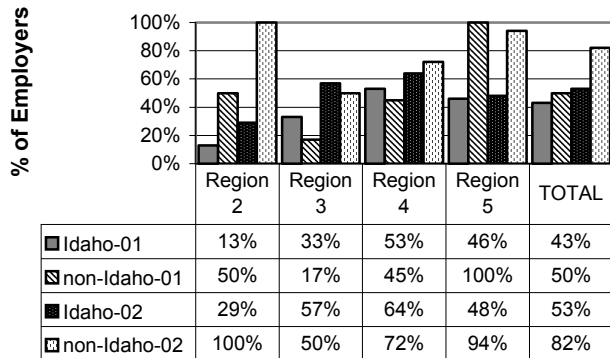


Table 4: Average Wages for In-State, Out-of-State, and Total FWG Workers by Area and Year

	Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Total Average	\$6.39	\$5.50	\$6.56	\$6.60	\$6.50	\$7.34	\$6.81	\$6.43
In-State Average	\$6.56	\$5.52	\$6.34	\$6.52	\$6.65	\$6.95	\$6.20	\$6.47
Out-of-State Average	\$6.00	* insufficient data	\$6.77	\$7.50	\$6.34	\$7.60	\$6.74	\$6.38

FYI Chart 15: Percent of FWG Employers Who Provided Housing by Residency, Region, and Year



to 48 percent in 2002, mostly due to a sharp drop in the number of bonuses provided in Regions 3 and 5. Bonuses increased considerably in Region 4.

More employers (35 percent) provided housing in 2002 than in 2001, with housing more common

for out-of-state workers than in-state workers. *See FYI Chart 15.*

Overall, FWG wages rose by thirty-eight cents per hour, or 6 percent, from 2001 to 2002. Most of this increase was due to large increases in out-of-state worker pay in Regions 3 and 4. Region 2 saw a sharp decline in wages. This decline could be due to a small sample size; one employer accounted for more than half of the workers in the survey. Region 4 paid the highest wages, while Region 2 had the lowest wages. Both Region 3 and Region 4 had higher wages for out-of-state workers than for in-state workers. *See FYI Table 4.*

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F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NAICS — NEW STANDARD FOR INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) is the new standard for the industrial classification of businesses. It replaced the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system that had been in place since 1930. NAICS is not a revision of SIC, but a new and more comprehensive classification system.

NAICS was established in 1997 through a cooperative effort among the United States, Mexico, and Canada so that comparable statistics could be obtained for the three North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trading partners. NAICS was developed based on the economic concept that establishments should be grouped together according to similar production processes.

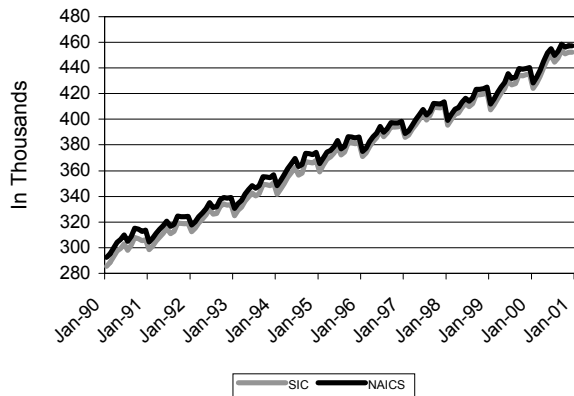
FYI Table 5: NAICS Sectors and SIC Origins

Code	NAICS Sectors	SIC Divisions
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, and Hunting	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing
21	Mining	Mining
23	Construction	Construction
31-33	Manufacturing	Manufacturing
22	Utilities	Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	
42	Wholesale Trade	Wholesale Trade
44-45	Retail Trade	Retail Trade
72	Accommodation and Food Services	Services
52	Finance and Insurance	
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	
51	Information	
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	
56	Administrative Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	
61	Educational Services	
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	
92	Public Administration	Public Administration
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	(Parts of all divisions)

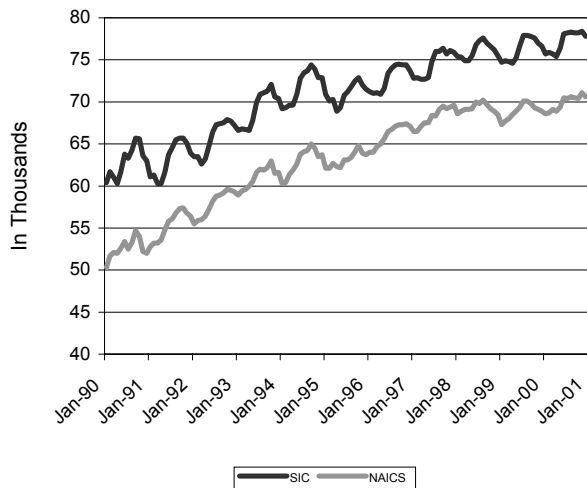
NAICS focuses on the identification of new and emerging industries and provides increased detail in the services sector compared to what was available under the SIC system. The increased level of detail necessitated increasing the length of the code to six digits from the four digits used by SIC. NAICS is comprised of 20 sectors, represented by the first two digits of the code, compared to the 10 divisions available under SIC. Many of these new sectors reflect recognizable parts of SIC divisions, while other sectors represent combinations of pieces from more than one SIC division, as shown in FYI Table 5. For instance, the *Utilities* and *Transportation* sectors were separated from the *Transportation, Communications, and Utilities* division, and the *Services* division under SIC has been subdivided to form several new sectors under NAICS. The new *Information* sector includes major components from the SIC divisions of *Transportation, Communications, and Utilities* (broadcasting and telecommunications), *Manufacturing* (publishing), and *Services* (software publishing, data processing, information services, motion picture and sound recording). The *Accommodation and Food Services* sector combines hotels and other lodging places from *Services* with eating and drinking places from *Retail Trade*. The U.S. Census Bureau has more detailed information about NAICS at <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.

Every industry classification in Idaho has been redefined and restructured creating a complete break in corresponding data. For instance, printing and its related activities were classified as *Manufacturing* under SIC, but reclassified as *Information* under NAICS. As a result, industry level totals or projections made under SIC coding will differ significantly from those made under NAICS. For example, FYI Chart 16 (on page 27) shows that *Service Producing* employment under NAICS is approximately 5,500 higher than *Service Producing* employment under SIC, while FYI Chart 17 (on page 27) shows that *Manufacturing* employment under NAICS is approximately 10,000 lower, than *Manufacturing* employment under SIC.

FYI Chart 16: Services Employment in Idaho.



FYI Chart 17: Manufacturing Employment in Idaho



FYI Table 6: NAICS Data Release Schedule

Program Source	Type of Data	Anticipated Publication Date
Covered Employment & Wages (CEW) <i>Formerly known at the ES-202 program</i>	Employment, wages, and number of establishments by industry	Already available on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website, http://www.bls.gov
Current Employment Statistics (CES)	Employment by industry (also known as nonfarm employment)	May-June 2003
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)	Wages and employment by occupation	Oct-03

NAICS Implementation

The implementation of NAICS officially began with the 1997 Economic Census. Once the census data was compiled, The Idaho Department of Labor, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, started the process of converting its various statistical programs to NAICS. To better aid our data users, state and national historical data for NAICS will be available back to 1991. A listing of anticipated dates when current and historical NAICS-based data for Idaho will be available is provided in FYI Table 6.

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2002 Review in January

The January 2003 issue of *Idaho Employment* will include a review of 2002 from a labor market perspective. It will include projected data and analysis for the State and the six labor market areas. The issue will be available in mid-January.

As a preview to next month's reviews of the year, the poem below is one man's perspective on the events of 2002 and what might be expected for the upcoming year. The author is former Boise State University economics professor John Mitchell. He currently is an Economist for the Western Region for U.S. Bancorp. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

2002-2003

By John Mitchell

Worries were mounting as the leaves began to fall,
The threat seemed to grow that the upturn would stall.
The third quarter came in with a growth rate of four,
More investment and consumers whose spending did soar.

Retail sales, job counts, and the market did drop,
Would this year-long up-turn come to a stop?
War worries are growing and threats do remain,
As the nation tries to deal with Saddam Hussein.

Stock prices are headed for three years of decline,
The bubble has burst and there is blame to assign.
There was Enron, Anderson, and those darn analysts too,
Not to mention our own enthusiasm about the things
tech would do.

Basic trust has been rent and must be restored,
Governance is a topic that once made us bored.
Consumers kept spending on homes and new wheels,
At rates they assumed were lifetime deals.

Amidst terror, the tech wreck, and the bear market's length,
The forces for expansion were building their strength.
New stuff, less inventory, and things wearing out,
And monetary and fiscal policies still with some clout.

Cash flows are rising and utilization will too,
Next year capital formation will come slowly through.
Employment trends up at a pace that is slow,
Far different than we saw only two years ago.

The bubble was fun in the years that it lasted,
I suppose that it is somewhat like getting blasted.
It is hangover time and our growth it constrains,
But in time this will pass in a new refrain.

New risks have emerged and we are still somewhat tense,
More resources are being shifted into defense.
The shocks since 2000 have made confidence fall,
But the resilience of our system we must all recall.

Oregon's long boom faded quite fast,
Its performance for a while was dead last.
The mix was the wrong one for this down trend,
Over time the economy will slowly mend.

Income tax reliance with no rainy day reserves,
Hath not the stability that the spending deserves.
Liabilities have leaped for public unfunded pensions,
Revealing things some leaders have been afraid to mention.

Washington was hit by a few more blows,
Empty buildings, fewer planes, and diminished trade
shows.

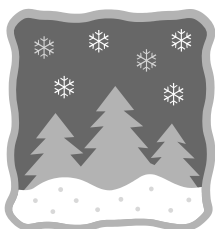
R-51 went down in smoke and flame,
Transportation problems will continue to restrain.

The Tri-Cities boomed from vitrification,
Microsoft survived its adjudication.
The upturn will come, but in a quite modest form,
Two down years will pass as we return towards the norm.

Idaho grew from Bush one to Bush two,
It was tech, call centers and dairies, too.
One forgets about cycles in 15 year runs,
The decline when it comes does really stun.

Business investment will resume a growth trend,
Different names, new products on which to spend.
Past growth helps engender a new fertile ground,
Farm income will jump, tourists will be around.

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The Idaho Department of Labor wishes all *Idaho Employment* readers a happy holiday season. We hope 2002 has been joyful and prosperous for you and your families!

And thank you to all of those whose work helps produce this newsletter each month.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.